Elba Ky. Nov 7th 1852

Dear Brother

Six miles north of Batavia & all kicking. Reub & poor Remsen come here on Thursday last. It has been very rainy since they came so that we have not done much, but we expect to make a shaking among the dry bones this week. Our flock is increasing a little, one lamb & others expected soon. Those Farnsworth ewes that Remsen bought are with lamb, that is, some of them. We tell the folks a good story about them. 3. that it is the custom with some farmers in Ky to put the buck with their choice ewes in the spring if any of them miss the buck in the fall. Of course they think it all right & choose those ewes as soon as any other. There are a number of men that want sheep coming to-morrow to see them & we hope to sell some. I feel as though I had some help now that Reub has come. He was foolish to bring Remsen back with him; he is not worth a straw. But it will give me a chance to go home sooner if we do not sell out. Reub says there has been some hard stories there about us since we have been gone. Remsen has had the "blues" so for the last six weeks that he has needed something to keep him alive. As for myself, you know I have an invincible love of liquor, & have always been a noted drunkard. But to tell the truth about it. Remsen has once or twice been very funny & foolish from the effects of liquor, but for the very reason that a table-spoonful will set him up. & as for myself, I have occasionally drank in the way of treating, because sometimes you can sell a man sheep if you will treat him.

I shall be at home as soon as one week from next Saturday, sheep or no sheep. Reub says he will stay & sell out if we do not sell out before that time

I wish you would send to Bridport & get my watch, & get my shoes at Father's. I wish, also, that you would go into Wilcox's & tell him to make me a pair of winter boots: these, that he made for me before I come away, are too small. I want a pair 1½ sizes larger. He can make a pair & if they do not fit, he can make another. I shall write to you again in a few days & let you know what day I shall be in Middlebury, & I wish you would be there & carry me to the foot of the mountain if you can.

Your affectionate brother
Steve

Monday night Nov. 8th — 1852

Sold six sheep to day. I wish you would see Jo. Robbins & see if you can get him to thrash my grain, to begin the first of Dec. I have been reading Parker's sermon delivered in Boston upon Daniel Webster. He's a stunning Abolitionist he dont know any thing. Ransom says Reub has got a male heir. He will want the farm now. Go it Reuben, I'll hold your hat —

Steve